

**Appl. No. 10/690,905
Amdt. dated July 5, 2005
Reply to Office action of April 6, 2005**

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.-16. (Canceled).

17. (Withdrawn) A method of hot docking a computer to expansion equipment, comprising:

connecting a port replicator to said computer; and

the computer includes a configurable digital portion of a network interface and the port replicator includes an analog portion of the network interface and further comprising:

masking a configuration select input signal to said digital portion to prevent the digital portion from responding to a configuration request when the port replicator is not coupled to the computer.

18. (Canceled).

19. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 17 further including detecting a transition of a signal from said port replicator indicating that the port replicator has been coupled to said computer.

20. (Canceled).

21. (Canceled).

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22. (Withdrawn) A portable computer, comprising:
a CPU;
a configurable portion of a network interface;
a port replicator including a second portion of the network interface; and
a means for masking a configuration select signal to the configurable portion of the network interface to prevent the configurable portion of the network interface from responding to a configuration request when the port replicator is not coupled to the portable computer.

23.-26 (Canceled).

27. (New) A system, comprising:
a control logic in a portable computer, said control logic receives a first expansion device input signal that indicates whether a first expansion device is docked to the portable computer;
wherein said portable computer can be docked to said first expansion device while said portable computer is on and fully operational; and
the portable computer further comprising a digital portion of a network interface, said digital portion including an initialization device select input that permits the digital portion to be configured, and an AND gate whose output signal couples to the initialization device select input and having an input that couples to an address line of a system bus and another input coupling to the first expansion device input signal, whereby for said digital portion to be configured, said address line is asserted and said first expansion device input signal is asserted indicating that the first expansion device has been docked to the portable computer.

28. (New) The system of claim 27 wherein the first expansion device comprises a port replicator.

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29. (New) The system of claim 27 wherein the first expansion device input signal connects to a pull-up resistor that forces the first expansion device input signal to the control logic to be in the logic high state when the first expansion device is not docked to the portable computer.

30. (New) The system of claim 27 further comprising code that is executed by a CPU in said portable computer following the first expansion device input signal driven to the logic low state upon detecting that the portable computer is docked to the first expansion device, said code reconfigures the portable computer to permit communication with the first expansion device when docked to the portable computer.

31. (New) The system of claim 27 wherein the network interface has a configurable portion and the portable computer comprises a configuration select signal that prevents the configurable portion of the network interface from responding to a configuration request when the first expansion device is not docked to the portable computer.

32. (New) The system of claim 27 further comprising a second expansion device input signal that indicates whether a second expansion device is docked to the portable computer and wherein the docked combination of said first expansion device and portable computer can be docked to said second expansion device while said portable computer is on and fully operational.

33. (New) The system of claim 33 wherein the first expansion device comprises a port replicator and the second expansion device comprises a drive wedge.

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34. (New) A method, comprising:

docking a first expansion device to a computer while said computer is on and fully operational, said first expansion device containing at least one storage device; and

wherein said computer includes a configurable digital portion of a network interface and the first expansion device includes an analog portion of the network interface and said method further includes configuring said configurable digital portion of the network interface at least by asserting an address line of a system bus and asserting a first expansion device input signal indicative of the first expansion device being docked to the computer, said address line and first expansion device input signal being provided as inputs to an AND gate whose output couples to an initialization device in the digital portion.

35. (New) The method of claim 34 wherein the first expansion device comprises a port replicator.

36. (New) The method of claim 34 further comprising detecting a transition of the first expansion device input signal indicating that the first expansion device has been docked to said computer.

37. (New) The method of claim 34 further comprising detecting a transition of a first expansion device input signal indicating that the first expansion device has been docked to said computer.

38. (New) The method of claim 34 further comprising masking a configuration select input signal to said digital portion to prevent the digital portion from responding to a configuration request when the first expansion device is not docked to the computer.

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39. (New) The method of claim 38 further including unmasking the configuration select input signal to said digital portion to permit the digital portion to respond to a configuration request when the first expansion device is docked to the computer.

40. (New) The method of claim 34 further including docking a second expansion device to said first expansion device while said computer and said first expansion device are on an fully operational

41. (New) The method of claim 40 wherein the first expansion device comprises a port replicator and the second expansion device comprises a drive wedge.